

REMARKS

Claim Status

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 8, 15-16, 19 and 21-24 under 35 USC § 102 based on US Patent 5,223,827 ("Bell"). Claims 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10-14, 17, 18, and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103 based on Bell and US Patent 6,434,715 ("Anderson"). In addition, the Examiner objected to the specification's reference to a "Table 3" which does not exist.

The Bell Reference

The Bell reference discloses a system for monitoring network events, and determining if the number of events is above a threshold number of events, and if so, then performing some action in response. The system monitors event occurrence within a sliding time interval by incrementing both the time interval and the threshold by using offset counters. According to Bell, this allows "absolute values of interval and event counts to be maintained, while at the same time allowing differential values to be used for present measuring purposes." (Bell, Col. 4, lines 62-65).

The Anderson Reference

The Anderson reference teaches event detection and the use of algorithms to detect the recurrence of fault events. As fault events occur, they are recorded in a log. If enough similar events occur, or if they occur frequently enough, the algorithm may generate a "repeat event" message to the user. (Anderson, Col. 2, line 18). In particular, when one of three conditions is met, the generation of a "repeat event" message is merited: the number of events meets a user-specified criteria; the average interval between the last X events is less than Y; if the interval between events decreases sufficiently as a proportion of prior event

intervals. (Anderson, Col. 3, lines 48-53; Fig. 2A, table columns 5, 6, 7). Any of these conditions will merit the generation of a user message indicating that a fault is present.

The Claimed Invention

The claimed invention provides an event logging method that identifies repeatedly occurring events, and prevents subsequent equivalent events from being presented to the user. (See *inter alia*, specification, page 6, lines 17-21). In this way, related events are treated as a single event, thereby allowing a user to more readily interpret the error logs. In particular, Figure 2 sets forth a method where a recurring event identified at step 140, and confirmed at step 180, is *ignored* at step 200. In this way, the suppression of logging related events allows any *unrelated* events to be more readily identified by the user (See specification, page 13, line 29 to page 14 line 2).

The Current Amendment

The specification was amended to correct the typographical error that made reference to "Table 3" to refer to Table 1.

The presently pending claims are 1, 4-6, 8, 12-21, and 23, of which claims 1, 8, and 23 are independent. The independent claims have all been amended to clarify that the method includes either ignoring recurring events, or preventing them from being presented in the event list to the user.

Response to Rejections

The amended claims are not anticipated by Bell or Anderson. Claim 1 recites "preventing a subsequent event from being presented in the event list to the user"; claim 8 recites "preventing the received data relating to the event condition from being presented in the event list to the user" and claim 23 recites "designating the event as being in a recurring

state, and ignoring subsequent event conditions as long as the event condition remains in a recurring state." In each case, the claims describe suppression of the logging of an event that would otherwise be recorded as indicative of an event occurrence.

As described above, neither the reference Bell nor Anderson references are directed to suppressing event logging for recurring events. Bell merely describes a method of determining when an event has occurred using threshold measurements and time intervals. Indeed, Bell seems cumulative of the prior art described by Applicants on page 3, lines 22-31 of the specification.

Anderson describes a system where error events are logged, and additional messages are generated (and sent to a user) that are indicative of a system fault. Anderson, therefore, teaches that *additional* messages are created under certain circumstances, rather than the suppression of logged events. Anderson, therefore, teaches away from the presently claimed invention. The fact that Anderson allows a limit to be placed on the number of additional user messages is not relevant to the claimed invention.

The amended claims are not made obvious by Bell, Anderson, or a combination of the two. As stated above, neither reference alone suggests the step of ignoring events deemed to be recurring. Thus, the combination of the two is still deficient in this regard.

All the remaining claims depend from the independent claims 1 or 8. Applicants submit that for at least this reason the remaining claims are also not anticipated or made obvious by the prior art.

CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that the application is in good and proper form for allowance and respectfully request the Examiner to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of

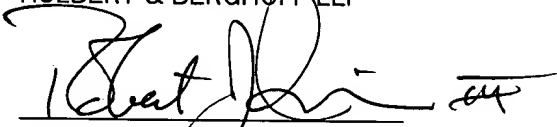
the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney, at 312-913-3305.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:


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